

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01
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TAGS: ECE, CSCE, PFOR, SENV, ETRN, ERNG, UR, FI
SUBJECT: ECE - SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS -
SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT,
TRANSPORT AND ENERGY

REF: A) STATE 34639; B) GENEVA 1232

1. AT OPENING MEETING OF ECE ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROBLEMS, FEBRUARY 21 USSR RAISED QUESTION OF SOVIET PROPOSAL
FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND
ENERGY. SOVIET STATEMENT WAS PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION OF
NEED FOR SUCH FORM OF COOPERATION, WITH NOT FURTHER ELUCIDATION
RE WHAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED OR VENUE.

2. SOVIET PROPOSAL SUPPORTED BY HUNGARY, POLAND, GDR
BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND BYELORUSSIAN SSR, MOST OF WHICH
LISTED POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ALONG LINES ALREADY SET
FORTH IN THEIR LETTERS ON SUBJECT TO ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.
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SOVIET PROPOSAL ALSO SUPPORTED BY ROMANIA WHICH STRESSED THAT
CONGRESSES WOULD HAVE TO BE ORGANIZED AND CARRIED OUT
WITH STRICT OBSERVANCE OF RULES AND NORMS OF CSCE.

3. FINLAND MADE STATEMENT ALONG LINES ADVISED REFTEL B,
STATING THAT IT WOULD FOLLOW UP ON LETTER OF NOVEMBER 11,
1976, RE MODALITIES FOR POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE,

WITH LETTER SETTING FORTH THEMES WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. FINNISH DEL SAID CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THEMES WOULD BE: (A) SECTION OF CSCE FINAL ACT DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION MUST BE SOURCE OF THEMES, (B) THEMES SHOULD BE CHOSEN FROM ISSUES ON WHICH FORMAL EXPERT LEVEL COOPERATION HAS FAILED TO PRODUCE DESIRED RESULTS AND WHICH MIGHT BENEFIT FROM ELEVATION TO A POLITICAL LEVEL, (C) THEMES SHOULD BE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CONCLUSIVE RESULTS IN THE FORM OF BINDING AGREEMENTS, AND (D) THEMES SHOULD HAVE REACHED A CERTAIN STATE OF MATURITY, E.G., AS THE RESULT OF EARLIER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

4. FINNISH DEL AID HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THEMES SHOULD BE LIMITED TO TWO OR THREE. (IN FORMAL CONVERSATIONS, FINNISH DEL STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING FOLLOWING FIVE AREAS FROM WHICH TO DRAW TWO TO THREE NARROWLY FOCUSED THEMES: (A) EXCHANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS, (B) AIR POLLUTION, (C) COORDINATION OF EXISTING CONVENTIONS ON BALTIC, MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTH ATLANTIC, (D) ENVIRONMENTAL POISONS (WASTES) DEPOSITED IN WATERWAYS, AND (E) TRANSPORT BY AIR OR WATER OF FERTILIZERS, CROP DISINFECTANTS, PESTICIDES, ETC. RESULTING FROM LAND USE.)

5. SPAIN, SPEAKING FOR FIRST TIME IN DEFINITIVE MANNER ON THIS QUESTION, STATED THAT WHILE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY SECTORS OFFERED VAST POSSIBILITIES FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATION, ECE, AS SET FORTH IN THE FINAL ACT, PROVIDED WITHOUT DOUBT THE BEST VEHICLE FOR SUCH COOPERATION. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBLE ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES, SPAIN BELIEVED THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION WOULD BE MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE ONCE THE RESULTS OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AND THE SHAPE OF FUTURE EUROPEAN COOPERATION (IN ALL AREAS) WERE KNOWN.

7. UK, SPEAKING FOR EC-9, SAID IT COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT ECE DECISION B(XXXI) (ON SOVIET PROPOSAL) PLACES ANY SPECIAL TASK ON SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISERS. RATHER, THEY SHOULD BE GUIDED BY ALL RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF 31ST SESSION, ESPECIALLY I(XXXI) AND D(XXXI).

7. US DEL NOTED THAT CSCE AND 31ST SESSION HAD CHARGED SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISERS WITH SEVERAL SPECIFIC TASKS INCLUDING STUDY OF LONG RANGE TRANSPORT OF AIR POLLUTANTS, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT INTERFACE, WHICH THEY WERE UNDERTAKING

TO ADDRESS. HE SAID THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF
SOVIET PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DEFERRED TO 32ND SESSION.

8. TEXTS OF FINNISH AND SPANISH STATEMENTS POUCHED
IO/IEP KAHN AND EUR/RPE SWARTX. CATTO

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Message Attributes

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